

# Network Link discussion points. 17th May 2019

## How do we encourage U3As to join a network?

Some think they are another layer of bureaucracy or are not aware of networks  
Geographical location may make attendance difficult  
Lack of appropriate publicity not reaching them  
Maybe confused by names - role specific networks?  
Some U3As don't have capacity or funds to send a rep to a meeting  
Content of meetings could be off putting  
Committee changes might mean new officers don't want to attend  
Respect the choice not to belong  
RT to keep a note of those who don't belong

Good for mutual support, joint training sessions,  
Access to local U3As to share events, interest groups

Suggestions for encouraging U3As to attend :

Invite non network U3As to special events eg quiz, study days  
Offer support to U3As with diminishing numbers  
Ask U3As what they would like, what would they like to do  
TVs could take publicity flyers to non-network U3As and talk about benefits of belonging  
Continue to communicate positively with them  
Discuss at network meetings  
Ask them to help organise an event  
Mention in TAM and on regional website  
Offer useful training sessions on topical themes -scams, first aid  
Make meetings purposeful

Always invite them to meetings - email the chairman - use generic email addresses

## How do you fund your network?

10p per member, some have upper total fixed.  
Network could offer to fund a small U3A  
Fixed amount depending on size of U3A  
Individual U3As take turns to host, so no charge  
Run regular study days with a charge, profits fund network meetings  
Meet in someone's house  
Use media for face to face meetings  
Meet for lunch, charge includes a little extra for network  
Cost of each delegate attending is funded by their U3A

Funded by revenue raising activities - craft day, quiz

## How can networks help raise the profile of the U3A?

Local publicity

Word of mouth

Emphasise quality not quantity

Be welcoming

Inter-generational activities

Contact local companies, HR department

Keep growing the learning opportunities at all levels

Be flexible

Communication is key. Consider mailing members not just committees

Encourage skills sharing

What do we want the movement to look like in 5 years

Networks use social media platforms

Be aware of local events/community days, ask for a U3A stand

Hold events eg music day, open to the public

Appoint a publicity officer on committee

Be aware of companies organising pre-retirement event, offer to attend

Use residential homes for meetings

Leaflets to promote in doctors surgeries

Tell RT what you are doing to avoid duplication

Should be growth and sustainability

Have a network rep on every U3A committee

Networks could support and offer help to the Regional trustee and Start-up

Volunteers

Some are resistant to identifying areas where no U3As exist